

# Argentina

## I. Men and Manners in "Camp" and City

By J. A. Hammerton

Author of "The Argentine Through English Eyes"

**I**N large part the immense and meteoric prosperity of the Argentine

Republic has been due to foreign energy and gold. The country, for example, could not make use of the wealth hidden in its soil until it had a railway system, and this was given to it by capital from abroad—chiefly from Great Britain. But to the Argentines themselves must be allowed the credit of exerting themselves vigorously to make the most of their natural resources. It was the frigorífico which started their country upon the road to riches, the refrigerating method which enabled fresh beef to be shipped under conditions which made it eatable when it got to its journey's end. The Argentine cattle kings saw their opportunity then and took it. They have proved themselves an active, progressive race.

These estancieros were chiefly men of the old Argentine stock, which derived from Spanish settlers with slight Indian tincture: they had succeeded to the possession of immense tracts of territory, vast herds of cattle and flocks of sheep, and they lived in a patriarchal style, with their children and their children's children around them. The sons who married brought their wives to the father's house, sometimes the daughters brought their husbands. Life was easy and comfortable in those old days, without much refinement; it was healthy, and it was picturesque.

### The Half-Savage Gaucho Cowboy

The rounding-up of the cattle at certain periods was done by the gauchos, the half-breed cowboys, who united Spanish courtesy with Indian savagery, who wore a most ornamental costume with silver spurs and buttons, who would, at one hour, be charming listeners by their melancholy music or by coplas

of their own composing, and the next would be knifing an enemy or acquaintance without hesitation or remorse.

Now the gaucho is disappearing. Large tracts which were given up to grazing are producing grain. The stock-breeders no longer let their herds roam at will and wild over the pampas. They keep them under observation in well-appointed stock-farms, growing alfalfa, or lucerne, for their feed, and making a business of what was once merely an occupation for very wealthy proprietors and for the roving cowboy, deeply attached to his open-air life in the saddle and to the plains over which he galloped, driving the great herds of cattle before him.

### A Land of Opportunity and Fortune

There is no romantic element in the character of the Argentine of to-day. The vision of opportunities to make money in large quantities, and in a few years without much labour, took hold of him as soon as the development of the Republic by foreign capital began to bear fruit. He thinks about money all his time, he talks about it most of the time, he spends it lavishly, both in Buenos Aires and in Paris, and he is always planning how to get more. If you hear two Argentines conversing in the street or in a public place, you can be sure you will hear pesos mentioned very often. (The peso is the coin in which their reckoning is done.) When they talk to foreigners they often tell them stories of the rapidity with which fortunes have been made.

The day of such dazzling change in values is over. There is still big money to be made, but it must be worked for. The Argentines are ready to work. They have more vigour and perseverance than Spanish races usually possess, they are enterprising and



## ARGENTINA: MEN & MANNERS

shrewd at a bargain, for the inter-marriage of Italian, Spanish, German, and French has produced a type radically different from the Spanish.

A French writer, M. Yves Guyot, deplored the preference of Argentines of ability for political rather than commercial or industrial careers. "The most energetic of them," he said, "instead of seeking wealth by exploiting natural resources have sought it by exploiting power. They consider that the most rapid method of becoming rich is to obtain control of the Government."

Lately, however, Argentines of vigorous and able mind have gone into business more often than into politics.

It has been seen that the fortunes obtainable by Ministers of State are small compared with the huge profits that can be made in speculative commerce. Indeed, the complaint has been heard that the class of men in political life does not represent fairly the talent of the country, for the reason that the best brains are drawn into trade. Certainly the instability and loose organization of the activities of Government compare very poorly with the methods in vogue among many Argentine men of business. The latter pride themselves on being as keen as the North Americans and on having their businesses managed in the same way. This does not, in



AN ARGENTINE GAUCHO IN HIS HOURS OF IDLENESS

The cowboy of the pampas is as picturesque a type, and somewhat less swaggering, than the Texas variety. Spanish, with a tincture of native Indian blood, he can be cruel to the point of ferocity, but he has his tender moments, as betokened by the Spaniard's love of the guitar





#### ARGENTINA'S MOST PICTURESQUE FIGURE WILL SOON BE A MEMORY

The gaucho still wears his long boots of softest leather, and his spurs are the immense and brutal instruments of torture seen here. His girdle of solid silver is a rare sight, however, and the bolas which he wears round his waist will more often be seen on the pommel of his saddle. The chiripá, or mantle of coloured cloth, which takes the place of trousers, is still in common use

some cases, go beyond appearances, but there are numbers of Argentines who can hold their own, when a bargain has to be struck or a difficult deal to be negotiated, with men of any race.

Although they still profess respect and even affection for Spain, the Argentines have, as a rule, little but a disdainful pity for the modern Spaniard. They spend little time in Spain when they visit Europe. They find it dull

and antiquated in its habits, behind the times in comforts and conveniences, "centuries in the rear of the Argentine." They admire the French more than they admire the Spanish people, and consider Paris the top-notch of civilization.

Yet they are dependent upon Madrid for their literature; such art as they have draws its inspiration from Spain; all their ties of culture and tradition are with the race from which they

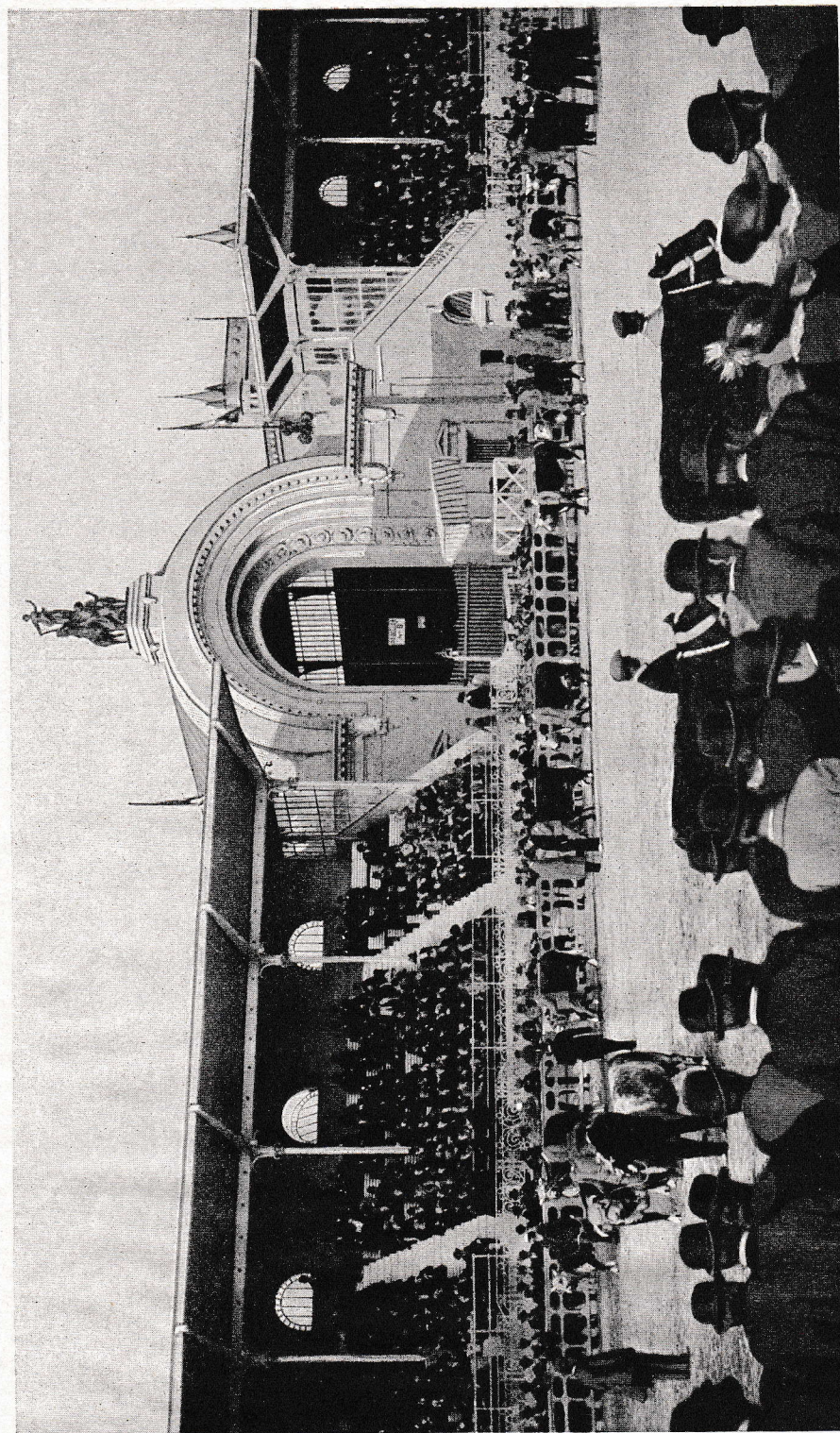




HANDYMEN WITH KNIFE OR LASSO: GAUCHOS SKINNING CATTLE ON THE PAMPAS.

Here is a very representative scene of Argentine life, where the refinements of civilization count for little. Cattle are plentiful, and the gaucho eats their roasted flesh in immense quantities. They have caught two animals with the lasso and promptly cut their throats and skinned them with their razor-like knives, little recking whether the animals have been quite dead or not before they started removing the hides. The carcasses will presently be cut up and roasted for the cattlemen's





#### HOW THE ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES ENCOURAGE THE NATIONAL INDUSTRY OF CATTLE-RAISING

A scene at the Agricultural Show at Palermo, Buenos Aires. The buildings and general accommodation are splendid, and bulls which are worth thousands of pounds each are regularly shown here. Foot and mouth disease is very common, and often animals suffering from it are actually on exhibition. They are not killed off, as in Great Britain, but nursed back to health. The tendency of all cattle in the Argentine is to degenerate unless the stock is continually renewed



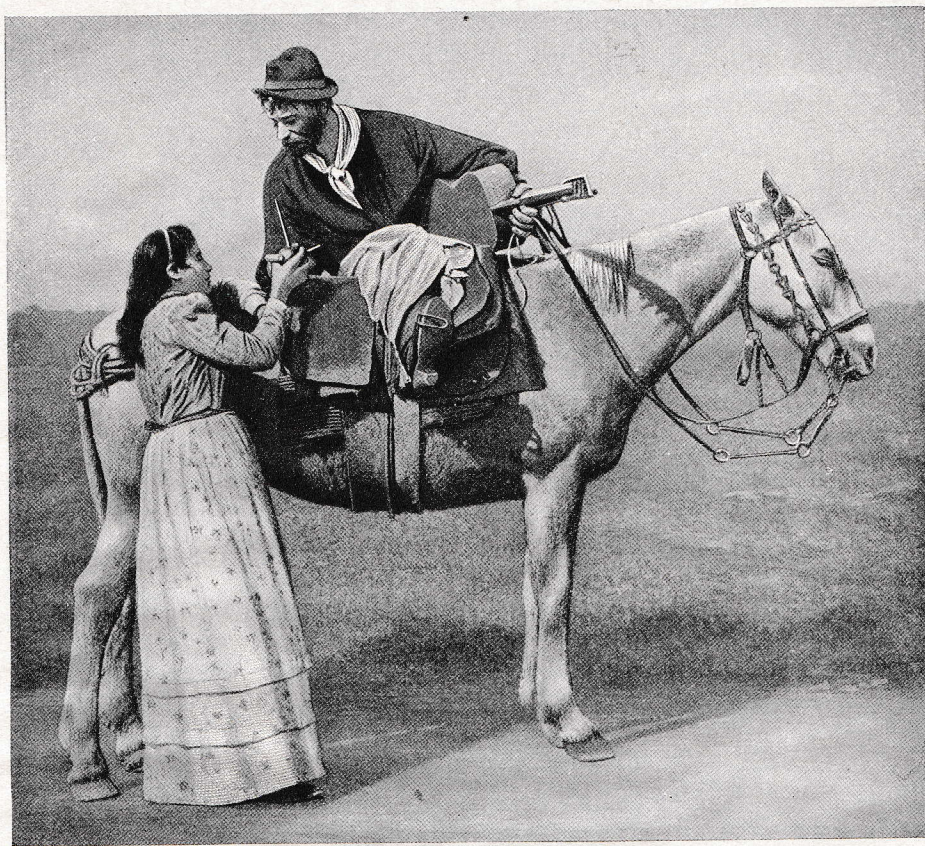
## ARGENTINA: MEN & MANNERS

sprang. Their newspapers, it is true, are far in advance of the Spanish Press. There are two journals in Buenos Aires, "La Nacion" and "La Prensa," which give an ampler picture of the world day by day than do any even of our own, if we except the "Times" and the "Daily Mail." They make foreign affairs their special study, and every day give up a great deal of their space to cablegrams from all parts.

Clever and well-informed as their journalists are, the Argentines have produced next to nothing in the way of literature. This is not because of any lack of interest or because of the absence of a large reading public. The habit of novel-reading is general; in any company of educated Argentines the

talk is likely to touch upon books and literary topics. There are many excellent book-shops in the capital—better than all but two or three in London—where works by the prominent authors of all European countries can be found. But an Argentine literature has not yet made its appearance, though some dramatists of promise and a few poets—notably Guido España—have done good work.

The ground has been deliberately, but so far vainly, prepared for it by the cultivation of an intensely patriotic national spirit. "Our common characteristic," one of their Presidents declared, "is that we all bear in our hearts the sense of our future greatness." In schools the children are taught that



**IDYLL OF THE PAMPAS: GAUCHO SWEETHEARTS EXCHANGING MATE CUPS**

The woman bears distinct trace of Indian origin, but the little ceremony is purely characteristic of the gauchos. The maté, or herb tea, which is the national drink, is made by pouring hot water over the leaves placed in a maté cup or gourd, and the decoction is sipped through a metal tube which has a strainer at the lower end. To exchange maté cups is a token of friendship





#### RIDING PILLION ON THE PAMPAS OF ARGENTINA

Save for the characteristic attire of the man and his chiripá, the above might be a picture of a couple going to market in the olden days in rural England. The frugal, hard-worked women of the gaucho class leave to their lords and masters the personal vanities of picturesque dress

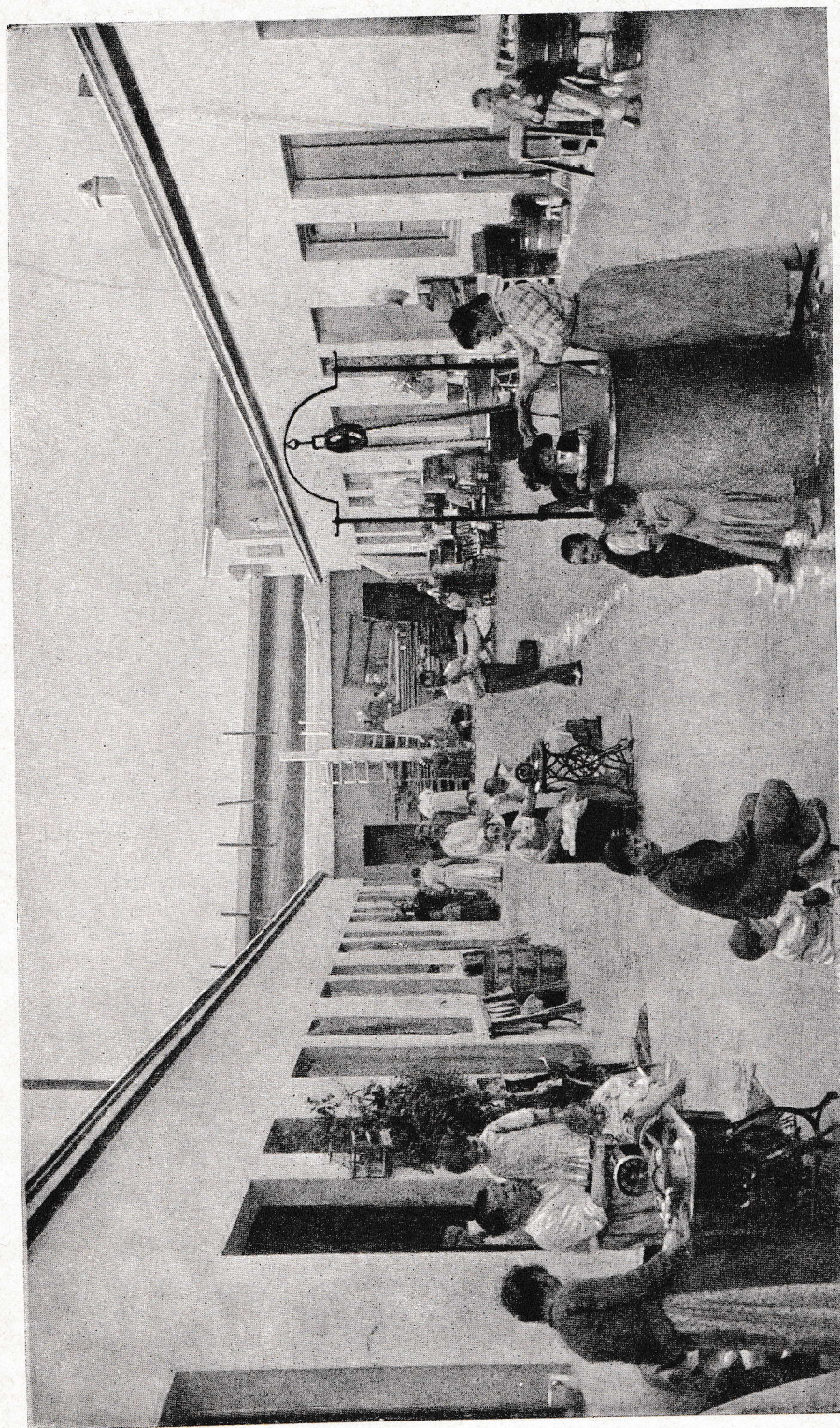
love of country should come before even love of parents. The flag is treated with reverence. When a regiment passes through a street with its colours, all hats are taken off. The enormous expenditure on armaments is borne because it would be considered unpatriotic to oppose it. Thus all the evils which arose in Germany through the inculcation of patriotism as a duty, and through the blind worship of the State as an abstraction, are growing up in this Republic, vowed to liberty and people's rule.

There is a large allowance of pride in the Argentine character. Pride of family, pride of city, pride of race. This may, in some less agreeable natures, show itself by boastfulness. But while offensive self-satisfaction is confined to the ill-educated and unrefined, there is nevertheless among almost all Argentines a great deal of belief in the country as the finest and in the people as

the most progressive of the world. They say of nations as of individuals that they must be either zonso or vivo, either asleep or "live wires." They count themselves among the livest wires of all.

They are hard workers in pursuit of riches and in other paths, too, when their interest is aroused or their ambition stirred. The talk among the men is apt to be about whatever they make their money by. In a vine-growing district the complaint was made: "These folks talk of nothing but grapes, grapes, grapes." Conversational variety would be greater if women had been more in the habit of taking the lead in Argentine society. Until recent years there was very little free intercourse or comradeship between men and women. Girls were brought up in seclusion. They were not supposed to have any acquaintance with life outside the walls of their parents' houses or their convent schools

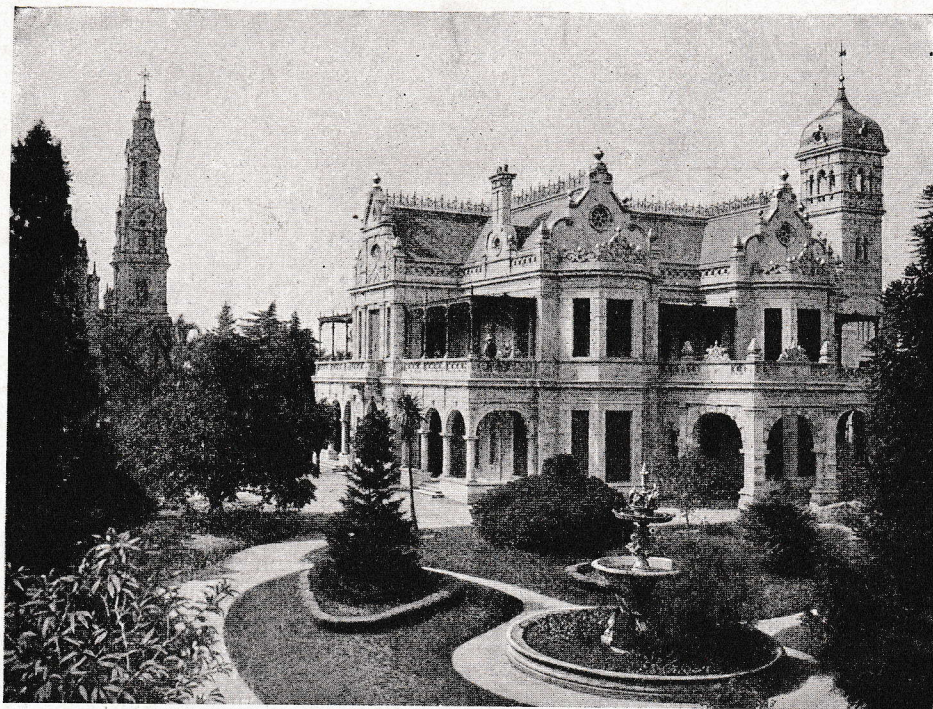




#### HOW THE POOR LIVE IN THE "CONVENTILLOS" OF ARGENTINE AND OTHER SOUTH AMERICAN CITIES

This scene in a Buenos Aires working-class district is equally representative of almost any of the larger South American cities. The working classes are very short of space in their domestic quarters, and into these conventillos—literally, "little convents"—they are herded with scant regard to hygiene. Many Italians, Spaniards, and Portuguese, in exchanging their native conditions for those of South America, find it a change for the worse.





#### HOW THE RICH LIVE IN THE SOCIETY QUARTER OF BUENOS AIRES

This photograph is given, not because it is exceptional, but because it is typical of many hundreds of the splendid villas which grace the neighbourhood of the Avenida Alvear. These ostentatious homes are closed most of the year—often for years—as their owners prefer to stay in Paris

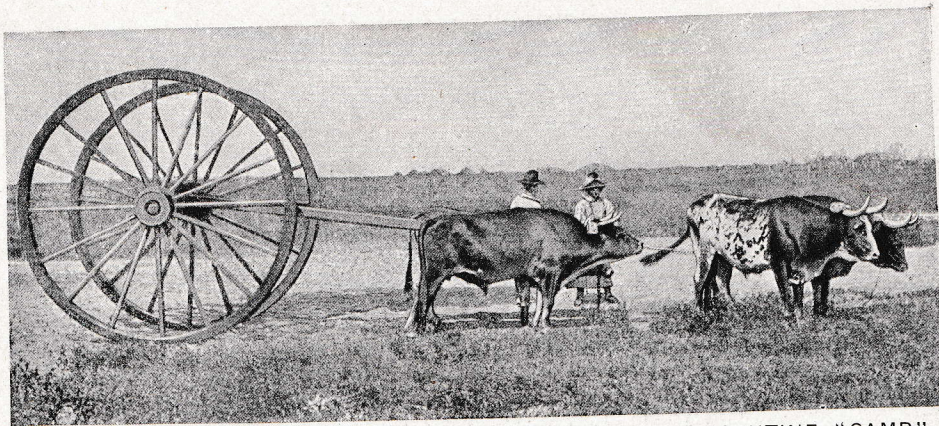
until they were married, and even then they remained in most cases "behind the veil." They were seen very little in public. Society in the European sense was unknown.

This has been changed in some degree and will soon have become an outworn tradition. But its effect upon the polite world of Argentina is apparent still. Family life is secretive, following the practice of Spain, which probably arose from the Moorish custom of secluding women, and remained in the country after the Moors had been driven out. Rarely does an Argentine invite guests to his house until he knows them well. He will very likely head his notepaper with the letters "S C" or "S C U," which stand for "Su casa" or "Su casa de Usted," and mean literally: "Your house"; while another form puts it, "Mi casa is suya"; or "My house is yours." But it is no more than an empty courtesy; it does not in the least imply that you will ever be asked to his house, even for tea, or the slightest meal.

If you are asked, you will find that it is comfortably furnished, more so than most houses in Latin America. Some of the rich families in the capital, and in other cities, too, inhabit mansions, profusely ornamented and luxuriously appointed, but not very substantially built. The style of architecture is flimsy. Instead of stone, the material which meets the eye is stucco or cement. This robs even the largest and most important buildings of that mellow dignity which we find in "weathered" stones. They look better from a distance. A close view reveals their cheap and insubstantial construction.

On their farms and in their country houses the Argentines live very much after the manner of their fathers and grandfathers. Plenteousness is within their palaces. Their rooms are spacious and sunny. Numbers of servants look after their comfort. They lead an open-air life, either in the saddle or in motor-cars; they watch their farming or stock-raising interests with careful eye. As





#### WHY THEY NEED SUCH IMMENSE WHEELS IN THE ARGENTINE "CAMP"

As there are no made roads, cart tracks grow hard in the hot summer months, and in the rainy season they are mere channels of mud. The only wheels which then serve are about ten or twelve feet in diameter, and relatively narrow, so as to cut through the mud

you travel over the flat plains, hour after hour without a bit of rising ground, the grass or the grain rippling gently away to the far horizon, you see every now and then the white walls of an estancia, probably surrounded by groves of eucalyptus trees, and if the owners are or ever have been Englishmen, by gardens pleasant to behold. Many English went to the Argentine as ranchers. They found the life to their taste, and many of them made money. The Argentine estancias were in earlier

days very large. They ranged from twelve thousand to two hundred thousand acres. There was scarcely anything that could be called farming in those days. The cattle wandered over a huge expanse of prairie and were rounded up from time to time, often in an unmethodical, wasteful way. In the "drives" many poor beasts used to fall and have their legs broken and be trampled on.

One of the first of the Argentines to change this system was an emigrant



#### AN "ASADO": PEONS READY FOR THEIR ROAST BEEF AND MATE

Two "sides" of beef have been roasted, the water has been boiled to pour on the maté leaves, and presently the knives will be busy cutting off toothsome portions of the asado. These men are peons, or labourers, employed on the great estancias, the one of the white collar being an overseer





#### RIDERS OF THE PLAINS IN A LAND OF INFINITE DISTANCES

Horseflesh is cheap, and the native, or criollo, ponies, though usually shabby in appearance, unlike the splendid Chilean horses in which the Arab strain is still predominant, are wiry and enduring, and the gaucho spends most of his life on the back of one of them

from Spain, named Pedro Luro, who arrived in 1837. He offered to buy all the wild cattle which roamed on a certain ranch at so much a head. The owner of the ranch thought he was making a good bargain. He did not understand what was in the purchaser's mind. By forbidding the cowboys to ride about wildly and frighten the cattle, Luro gradually got the animals tamer and tamer, separated the beasts of different ages and qualities, and by driving them carefully got them to the stockyards in good condition. Now the whole business has been

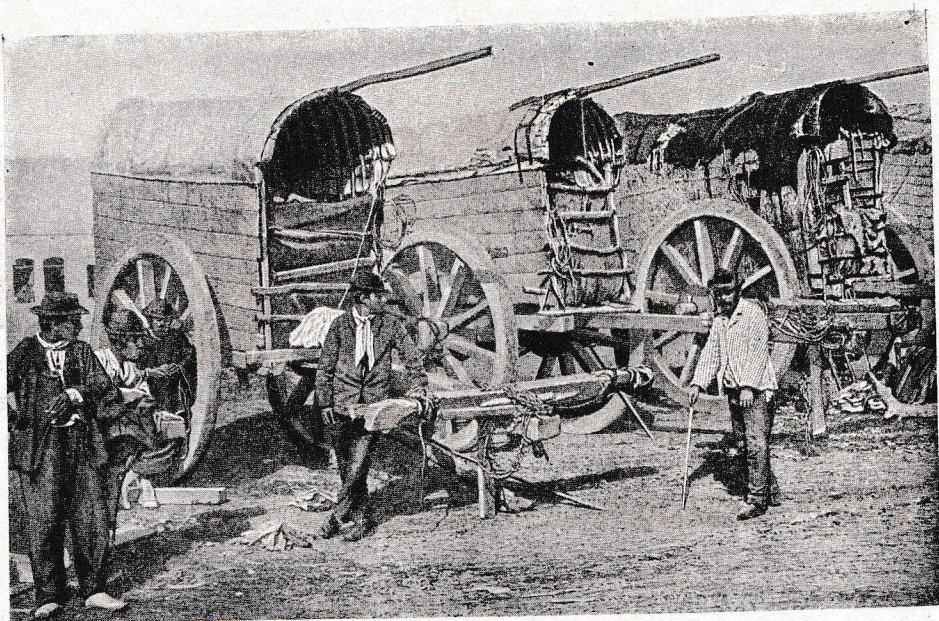
systematised. The estancia has become more of a farm and less of a ranch. Instead of letting the cattle graze on the natural grass tufts, the pampas, the farmers plant alfalfa (or lucerne) and so



#### MUSIC, MATE, AND MUTTON ON AN ARGENTINE ESTANCIA

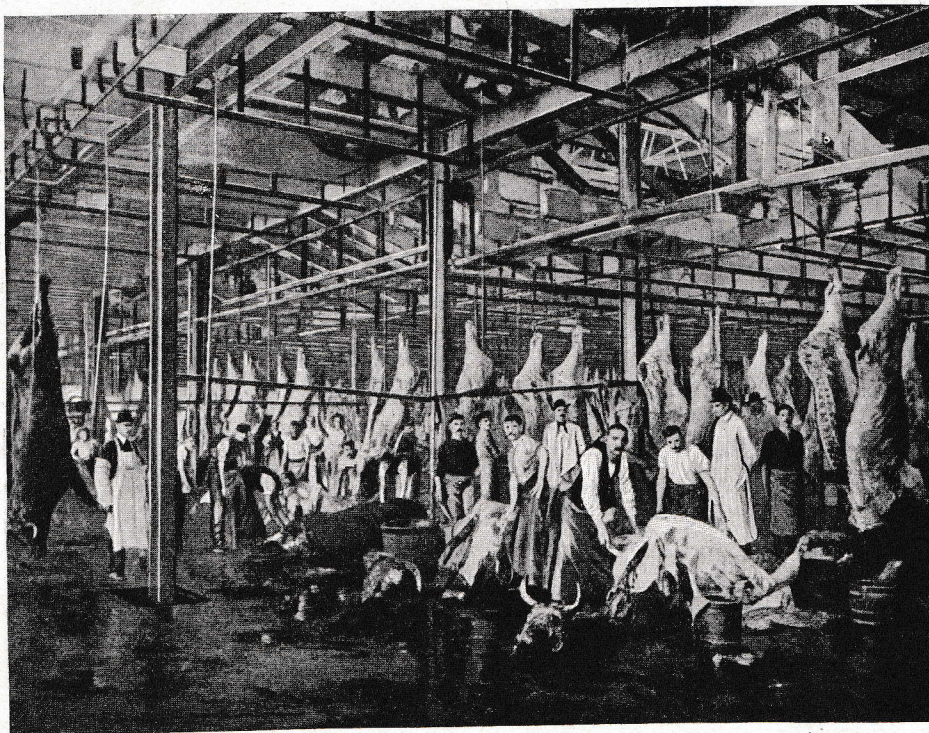
The great stock raisers count their farms not in acres, nor even in square miles, but in leagues, and it is often a full day's journey from the estanciero's house to the limits of his territory. These gauchos on duty at a distant part have the shelter of a reed-built hut and will not lack for mutton





#### PITY THE POOR BULLOCKS YOKED TO THESE WAGONS

Yoked to these heavy wagons, which they have to haul through mud four or five feet deep, and incessantly prodded with sharp pointed spears by their drivers, the teams must envy their brethren who have attained the stage of chilled meat



#### GLIMPSE WITHIN ONE OF THE GREAT ARGENTINE FRIGORÍFICOS

The real wealth of Argentina is derived from its inexhaustible stock of cattle and sheep. The chilled meat industry has in recent years developed to extraordinary dimensions, and immense frigoríficos in the neighbourhood of the River Plate provide employment for thousands of workers





#### SCENE OF SLAUGHTER ON AN ARGENTINE OSTRICH FARM

It is the peculiarity of the Argentine soil that while animal life imported from other climes may increase abundantly, it degenerates in quality. Thus, although ostriches have been bred in abundance, they are inferior to their progenitors. The ostriches being slaughtered on this farm will not yield many beautiful feathers, but provide the humbler article known as the plumero, or feather duster

multiply exceedingly the number of animals they can support. Upon the six thousand four hundred acres which make up the Argentine unit of measure, a square league, five hundred cattle or two thousand sheep could find their food when the pampa was in its natural state. Turned into alfalfa paddocks, the same land will provide ample feed for two thousand cattle as well as five thousand sheep. The possible production of the Argentine plains has been raised thus from five million cattle to twenty, and a hundred million sheep.

But it is not in the supplying of the world with meat that the greatest wealth of the Argentine lies. Since it entered into competition with Canada and Russia and Rumania as a grain-growing country, it has taken its place as one of the chief suppliers of bread to the populations which cannot, or do not, produce enough to feed themselves.

Twenty-five years ago wheat flour was being imported into the country. Now six million tons of wheat are grown every year. Twenty years ago maize was scarcely grown at all. Now in the provinces of Buenos Aires and

Santa Fé alone five million tons are produced yearly. Cultivation spreads rapidly. The ground used increases by some three million acres a year, and the limit of cultivation is a long way off yet.

It is often argued that even more land would be broken up and sown if more opportunities were offered to the small cultivator. Most of the land is still held in enormous blocks by landlords who cannot use their estates to anything like the best advantage. Most of the immigrants who want to go on the land are obliged to take up holdings on the big estates. The landlords are glad to employ them because they break the land up, but the tenants find it hard, as a rule, to do more than make a living.

Whether they go half shares with the owner after he has found them their seed and implements, or whether they agree to pay him a fixed proportion of their produce, they are obliged to work very hard and without gaining any permanent advantage. They are working all the time for the benefit of another man's property instead of making a property of their own. As a consequence of this there is a preference among the immigrants for





#### THE DWELLING PLACE OF AN ITALIAN "COLONO"

Dotted all over the Argentine "camp" are these ramshackle casuchas, in which the hard-working Italian peasants shelter from the fierce heat of summer and the biting cold of the winter when not engaged in tilling the soil and raising crops on land lent to them by the estanciero on a system of profit-sharing, whereby the latter never loses and the toiler seldom gains

occupation in the towns. As waiters, shopkeepers, or cab-drivers they are better off and can save up money more easily. It is a remarkable fact that in a country which derives its wealth entirely from the soil not less than one-fifth of the population of eight and a half millions are dwellers in towns. This might be altered if the State used the same means of putting settlers on the land as are used in Canada, and something in this direction has been done. There is no doubt that the huge estates will be more and more divided and the land made to support a far more numerous population.

Before the war came with its restrictions upon shipping, the new settlers were arriving at the rate of a quarter of a million a year. They were chiefly Italians. From Italy the Argentine has received far more of its immigrants than from Spain, and this is no bad thing if the work of Italians and Spaniards be compared. But the Spanish immigrant is the one who comes to stay, who means to make his home in the Argentine and bring up his family to be Argentine citizens. The Italians are by no means all genuine

settlers. They are too much attached to their own land to contemplate leaving it for good. Their aim is to work hard and save money and go home again.

However, the prospects in South America are so alluring for those who can overcome the initial difficulty of making a start that a good many Italians who intended to stay only for a term of years have made up their minds to become permanent residents. They see that the fertility of the virgin soil of the pampas, which is easy to plough, offers a magnificent return for labour. The greater part of these pampas are in the temperate zone. They are suitable for all kinds of farming. Dairy herds are growing in number very quickly. The Argentines call their butter the best in the world—it certainly is as good as any; no one who has tasted it will demur to that. It is possible that in time this country may become the largest producer of butter for the European and North American markets.

By the majority of people, even by many of those who have been in the country, the Argentine would be described as, for the most part, a level, treeless plain with a lofty mountain

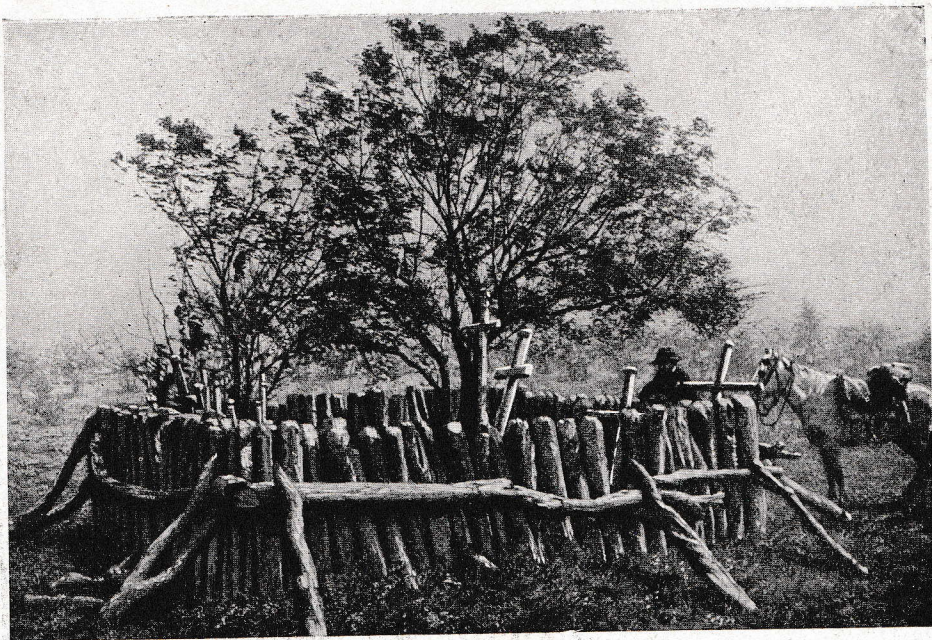




#### SILVER ORNAMENTS AND STILETTOES

It is very good of these two gauchos thus to have registered for future generations all the features of their once common costume. Picturesque it looks, but scarcely beautiful. There was a time, perhaps, when it was the best outfit for their work, being at once useful and decorative. It is entirely characteristic that these two should have posed with their feet trampling the horned skulls into the ground, and he with the stiletto reminds us of the most essential item in the gaucho's equipment





#### GAUCHO VICTIMS OF AN INDIAN RAID

There is not a great deal that is picturesque in the landscape of Argentina. Adventure is still there, of course, and northward, in the region of the Gran Chaco, where there are immense forests and untamed Indians, the gaucho and the lumberman can still look into the bright eyes of danger. This tiny cemetery encloses the graves of a number of gauchos killed in an affray with the Indians

range (the Andes) separating it from Chile. But the pampas cover in truth only about one-fifth of the surface of the Republic's territory. There are vast regions of forest and scrub, there are tropical swamps, there are mountains on a grandiose and widely-extended scale. The tropical parts are little developed. There are forest areas which are still primeval and where savage tribes dwell undisturbed by civilized man. As the railways spread, so the land is made use of, but they have not spread very much in the last few years.

Sheep-breeding on a large scale does not rank now as so important an element in Argentine prosperity, though, after a period of decline, it has begun to look up once more, especially in Patagonia, the greater part of which belongs to the Republic. There is in this land, as yet little developed, magnificent pastureland, which only requires railways to make it a source of wealth. There are also wide tracts of territory where the soil is fertile and needs only to be irrigated to bring forth splendid crops. Until a few British breeders tried their

luck there, the plains of Patagonia were occupied only by a small number of roving Indians who carried their tents about with them and had no fixed place of inhabitation. From the Falkland Islands, which are a British possession, off the southern end of Patagonia, some adventurous spirits crossed and cast their eyes around to see whether prospects on the mainland offered any inducement to settlers. In the Falkland Islands sheep are raised in very large numbers. The flocks which graze on their windy surface are reckoned to contain not fewer than two millions. At once the prospectors saw that Patagonia, which up to that time had been considered "barren," would provide excellent feed for sheep.

A company was formed and flocks were shipped. They thrived, and in spite of losses during the hard winters, the company went ahead. Pastures with better protection from the wind were found. Sheep-running became the first industry of Patagonia. No doubt it will be followed by others in time. The Argentine sheep-breeders were





#### ARAUCANIAN CEMETERY IN THE SOUTH-WEST OF ARGENTINA

With the adjoining Republic of Chile, Argentina shares the Araucanian Indians, the most war-like of all the South American aborigines, a race never entirely overcome by the Spaniards. They are to be found on the Argentine side of the Andes in the provinces of Neuquén, Chubut, and Santa Cruz, and their graveyards are pathetic in their crude wooden sculpture

wise enough and had money enough to endow their country with the finest stock. A story, which is both true and illustrative of the Argentine character, is told about one of them, Señor Manuel Cabo, who came to England to buy rams and sheep from a very famous breeder in Lincolnshire. There were twelve hundred altogether on the farm, and the buyer could not make up his mind which to take and which to leave. At last he offered to buy them all. The Englishman smiled and put the offer by. But the Argentine persisted. At last he said, "Here is a cheque for £50,000. Put that under your pillow to-night and let me have your answer in the morning." The answer was "Yes."

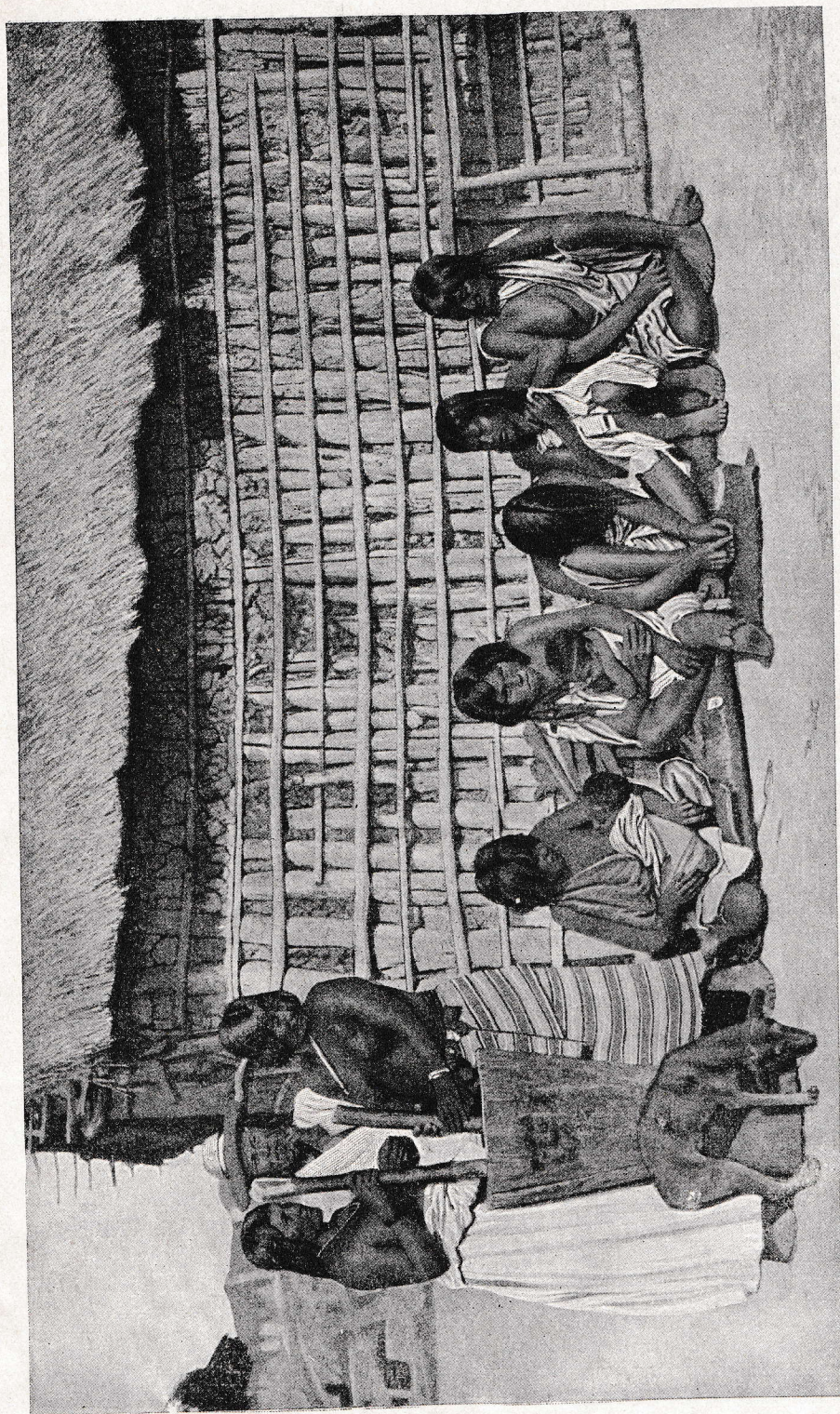
While sheep in Patagonia increase, the natives unfortunately die out. They are reckoned the largest race of men on earth; they are both tall and broad. By nature they are honest and kindly, and they are said to rank high in the scale of primitive civilization on account of the respect in which they hold women.

This does not prevent them at times, it would seem, from treating them with

apparent lack of consideration. A Patagonian chief, whose daughter was suffering from an attack of measles, consulted the tribal doctors and was told that the symptoms were caused by a devil which had got inside the young woman and would continue to plague her until he was driven out. As he disliked cold and noise, the best way to drive him out would be to set the patient naked upon a horse and to make as great a din as possible so that the horse would gallop at full speed. This the chief did. Patagonians, it may be judged, are a superstitious race with a belief in good and evil spirits as the causes of everything that happens to mankind.

Superstition is strong among all the Indians who have survived in the Argentine—not a very large number—and it enters largely into the religion of the white people. In spite of much talk about the need for education, not more than two-thirds of the children go to school, and not many years back it was stated that half the population over six years of age could neither read nor write. Teachers are poorly paid,





#### CHILDREN OF THE WILD WHO HAVE BEEN TAMED IN THE ARGENTINE CHACO

The Gran Chaco is as utterly distinct from most other parts of the Argentine Republic as the Mont Blanc range is from Salisbury Plain. The region has been little explored on account of the hostility of the natives and its natural difficulties, the abundance of the insect and reptilian life offering another bar, as in the heart of Brazil. Quebracho wood grows abundantly here, and is an important item of commerce for which the white man ventures into the Chaco



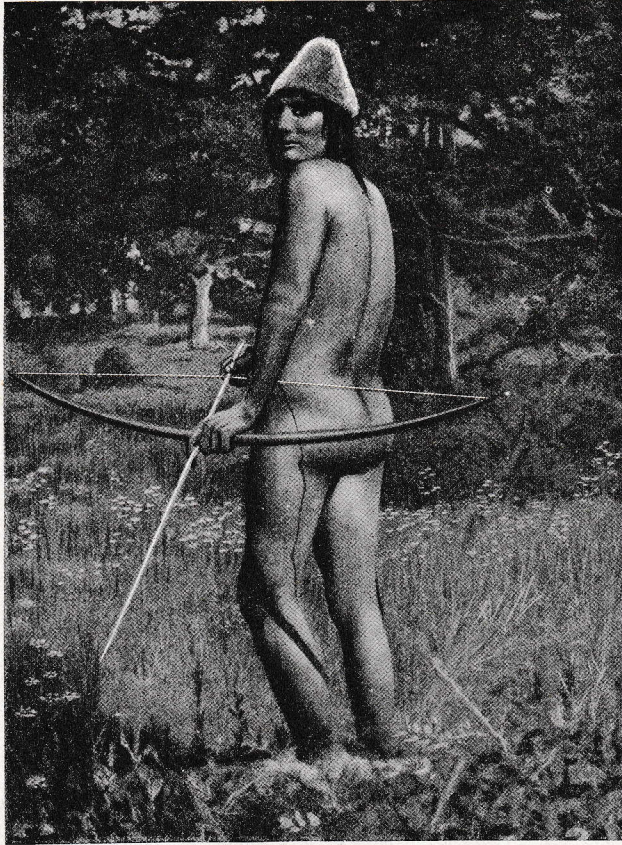
## ARGENTINA: MEN & MANNERS

therefore they are drawn from a class which is not very well educated itself. Even those who have passed through secondary schools and universities have no deep or abiding culture, for the higher branches of instruction have remained until lately in a backward state. It has been the custom of all who desired a sound training in arts or sciences, in law or medicine, or even in the "humanities," to seek it at some European university.

That will not be so always. Already thoughts are being turned this way, and governments show more genuine interest in education. There is a vague wish that the intelligence of the people shall be cultivated. This was the idea behind the abolition of State lotteries.

Whether the settlers from Europe make for better or worse order is a disputed point. The agitators who stir up troubles are commonly referred to as "Italian anarchists." Certainly the Jews from Russia, who were brought into Argentina by the trustees of Baron Hirsch's fortune, have proved themselves good and useful citizens. They are industrious as well as enterprising, their lands are in excellent condition, they give no trouble to the authorities. Of these immigrants there are fifteen thousand on the land. But there are more Jews in Buenos Aires, drawn thither by the chances of making money by easier means than tilling the soil.

In the narrow street, the Calle Florida, which is the meeting-place of all who do business or who seek their pleasure in the capital, there is a complete mixture of nationalities. Among



A HUNTER OF THE LAND OF FIRE

A journey of three-fourths the length of the entire South American continent separates the Indians seen on the opposite page from this Ona hunter of Tierra del Fuego. He must have been photographed at the height of the short, hot summer, and he will be wrapped in furs when the snow is on the ground

the million and a half inhabitants of the city the sixteen thousand of Jewish race are not particularly noticeable. Nor do they take a specially prominent part in the business of the place. They are but one strain among many.

Buenos Aires owes nothing to its situation. It lies on the bank of the Plata River, which is so broad that the other side of it is out of sight. It is on flat ground and built in rectangular form. It has no beauty, and for the new-comer no charm. It is, however, a city which gradually wins the liking of those who live in it. The authorities have done their best to make it pleasant by planting trees and making gardens. In the damp heat of summer all kinds



## ARGENTINA: MEN & MANNERS

of flowers bloom luxuriantly. The winter climate is not so pleasant. There are days of sunshine and crisp atmosphere, but fogs are pretty frequent, the winds are scarifying to the skin, and a great deal of rain falls.

One feature of the city strikes all who visit there. The Argentines have the same number of boot-cleaning shops as the Spaniards in Spain. They are on a grander scale as becomes a richer country, but the processes of shining are the same, and the boot-cleaners are

kept just as busy. It is a curious national habit which has never been satisfactorily explained.

The fashionable drive out of Buenos Aires is to Palermo, a kind of Bois de Boulogne, artificial but green and shady, with lakes and restaurants, a zoological garden and a racecourse, grass and flowers, and groves of feathery palm. Here the types of beauty most in vogue among the ladies of the Argentine may be studied as the carriages follow one another slowly round or are drawn up so that their occupants may talk to their friends.

Next to the capital in size and importance ranks the city of Rosario, picturesquely placed on the high bank of the Paraná River, one of the finest of the immense streams which flow from the Andes through the Republic to the ocean. With a population not far off a quarter of a million and a big volume of business, Rosario can afford to smarten itself up, and has done so by means of wide streets, parks, and boulevards. Its port, enlarged by a French company, in the absence of any native contractors able to take up so heavy a job, has a most prosperous air.

Another port which ships vast quantities of grain, like Buenos Aires and Rosario, is Bahía Blanca. Possibly this will some day be the greatest of all Argentine ports, as familiar to the world as Liverpool or Marseilles. The irrigation works in the south of the province of Buenos Aires, by enormously increasing the quantity of wheat grown there, gave Bahía Blanca its



MOTHER AND DAUGHTER IN PATAGONIA

The Tehuelche Indians of Patagonia are in personal appearance not greatly different from some of the Indian tribes of the northern continent. There is the same love of bright colours and the same skill in weaving them harmoniously into cheerful cloths

*Photo. Field Museum of Natural History Chicago*





#### FEMININE VANITY IN THE SILVER LAND

Although Argentina means the Silver Land, and Rio de la Plata is the Spanish for Silver River, these names have nothing to do with the mineral product of the country. Silver abounds in the Andes, but not in Argentina. It is, however, the favourite metal of the Indians throughout the continent, and the Patagonian woman whom we see above is immensely proud of her preposterous earrings

chance, and it rose to its opportunity. Of the inland towns of the Argentine one of the pleasantest is Mendoza, lying almost at the feet of the Andes in a region which is famous for its vines. These can only be grown upon irrigated land, for rain falls very seldom here. The channels of water running through the vineyards give the whole countryside

a delightfully green appearance. Water runs in channels at the side of the streets, too, and keeps green the trees which shade them. Most houses are of wood and commonly of one storey. The streets and squares are spacious. This is because the town was in 1861 utterly destroyed by an earthquake. Three-fourths of the families









GROUP OF ONA INDIANS ARMED FOR THE CHASE THOUGH CLAD IN THE HEAVY FURS OF WINTER

These natives of Southern Argentina hail from Tierra del Fuego, which is split up between Argentina and Chile. The lonely hunter in all his summer nakedness shown on page 213 is one of their tribesmen, and their home is colder than that of the Patagonians seen in the opposite page. Still, they are excellent physical specimens, and not even their tribal marks across the cheeks rob them of a certain dignity



## ARGENTINA: MEN & MANNERS

then living in Mendoza were wiped out. Here, as in Cordoba and in some of the other old settlements which have not been much affected by modern prosperity, except that the rise in land has enriched them, the women still wear the mantilla. Cordoba keeps up a strong religious spirit; it is a centre also for education. There is a more cultivated society here than in any other town of the provinces.

Once the city of La Plata was expected to rival and outshine the capital of the Republic. It was founded in 1882, when a feeling had grown up against what was called the excessive centralisation of government, which made Buenos Aires all important and seemed to leave

no place for provincial capitals. The founders of La Plata hoped to show that a provincial capital could hold its own nevertheless. They took three years to build the city, and spent ten millions sterling upon it. It was handsome and sanitary, it had everything that is needed to make a city flourish, except increase of inhabitants, who do not now exceed a hundred thousand. There has never been any great stir of life in the place, but it has at least dignity and repose.

The country in Argentina is by English-speaking people generally called the "camp," being a contraction of "campo," the Spanish word for the country. Here the people who produce the wealth of the Republic must be looked for. Here may be spent days and weeks and months filled with far more varied interests than can be discovered in the towns. To appreciate fully the Argentine you must dine with cowboys off an asado, a whole side of beef skewered over a wood fire, the carver cutting slices off it without taking it down. Asado con cuero is meat cooked in the same fashion in the hide; it is more flavoursome than flesh that has been skinned.

The one curse of the Argentine farmer is the locust plague, which may sweep across the country at any moment and destroy all vegetation. These pests fly in a formation twenty to twenty-five miles long and over a mile in breadth. They darken the light of day, sometimes taking twelve hours to pass. They not only ravage the crops, the fruit, the trees, everything, leaf and blade; they destroy in the houses



**YAHGAN WOMAN MAKING MEDICINE CHARMS**

In Tierra del Fuego there is more character about the natives than in most other parts of the Argentine. But they are still steeped in superstition, and the Yaghans, or Yapus, of Tierra del Fuego have the universal savage belief in medicine charms





#### OVERLOADING THE BURDEN BEARER IN PATAGONIA

These three smiling savages are Tehuelches, the sons of a Patagonian cacique, or chief. Their country is said to derive its name from the "big feet" of its aborigines, who have little excuse for foot development, in so far as they are seldom off the back of a horse, and are amongst the most expert riders of the continent, fearless and dexterous in the use of the lasso and the bolas

as well. They eat anything that is of vegetable origin, sheets, table-cloths, napkins, curtains, shirts (of starched shirts they are especially fond, so I have been told). No wonder that they drive people to the verge of madness and occasionally across that verge.

Whatever misfortunes may befall, however, it is not possible now that the country should suffer any disaster severe enough to check its advance in more than a minor degree. It has a range of climates so wide that, now its industries have become varied, there is no chance of all its products failing at the same time. In the north are the sugar plantations and the hardwood forests. In the central region are the wheat lands and the cattle, as well as maize, linseed, and lucerne in immense quantities. In the mountainous districts

there are minerals as yet little developed, and wine-making, while in the south sheep are once more taking their place as a prominent factor in the prosperity of the people.

More beef, frozen and chilled, is supplied to Europe by the Argentine than by any other country, and for many years it is likely to hold this leading place. It was the perfecting of the methods of refrigeration which gave it the chance to become a rich country.

Thus, although the share of the foreigner in the development of the country has been a large one, especially in providing railroads, the credit for Argentine prosperity belongs largely to the Argentines themselves. Their material prospects could hardly be brighter. What they have still to develop is an Argentine soul.





THE GRAVELY SOBER DANCING OF THE GAUCHOS IN FRONT OF THEIR SUNBAKED HOME

Jollity and mirth are not characteristic of the South American peoples of native or Spanish blood. The prevailing mood is tinged with melancholy, and even in their dances there is a notable lack of the Gallic abandon or the vivacity of the true Spanish dancer. Their dances are invariably to the twanging of a guitar and the snapping of fingers, and usually are accompanied by singing, which is reminiscent of the Orient and the discords of Africa



# Argentina

## II. A Great Republic in the Making

By W. A. Hirst

Author of "Argentina "

THE history of Argentina comprises four centuries of which, roughly speaking, the first three are uneventful, and the fourth, beginning with revolution, passes through much turbulence to prosperity. At the time of the arrival of the Spaniards the land was inhabited by the Guaranis in the north and the fierce Pampas Indians of the more southerly plains and Patagonia.

The first episode in Argentine history foreshadowed the difficulties that would be encountered. Juan Diaz de Solis explored the Plate estuary and, incautiously landing with a small party, was killed and eaten by a tribe of Indians. Later the news of Pizarro's exploits in Peru stimulated Spanish interest, and in 1535 Pedro de Mendoza at the head of a large expedition founded Buenos Aires, so named from the healthful breezes which prevailed there. Fearful hardships were encountered, and the site was quickly abandoned.

A few years later Buenos Aires was re-founded and again abandoned under pressure from the hostile Indians but in 1580 the brave Juan de Garay established Buenos Aires for the third and last time. He was an enlightened coloniser, encouraging the horse and cattle industry, which was already a source of wealth, and when he perished in a skirmish his place was taken by the wise Creole, Herman Darnas, who protected the Indians and taught them the arts of peace.

The dependency upon Peru and ultimately upon Spain was a serious evil, for the selfish policy of Spanish merchants insisted that all South American trade should pass to and from Europe by Peru and the Isthmus of Panama. To protect this monopoly, and to prevent the free export of gold and silver.

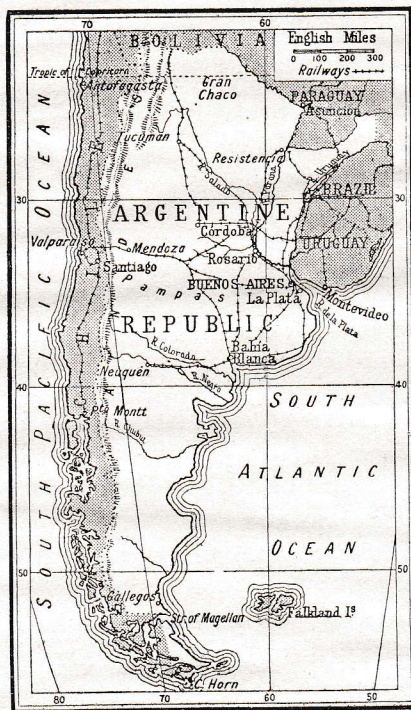
the Plate settlers were forbidden to trade direct with Europe. But the stringency of the various laws and regulations defeated their own objects, and a gigantic contraband trade grew up

The seventeenth century was uneventful except for wars with Indians and Portuguese. Commercial questions were most prominent in the eighteenth century, whose history was largely a struggle for the markets of the New World.

The Plate settlements were beginning to flourish, and the Creoles could no longer be kept in leading strings. This state of things was recognized in 1776 by the establishment of the Viceroyalty of Buenos Aires, i.e. the countries now known as Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Uruguay were detached from Peru and placed under the governor of Buenos Aires, who thus became Viceroy. A few years later practical free trade was established with Spain, and Buenos Aires made amazing advances in its trade in hides and other South American produce.

With prosperity came discontent with Spanish tutelage. The revolutionary spirit was beginning to affect the New World, and a great event showed that the Plate settlements need no longer be dependent upon Spain. As Spain was in alliance with Napoleon her possessions were exposed to attack from Britain. In June, 1806, a small British expedition arrived at Buenos Aires and captured the great city almost without resistance. But a brave Frenchman, named Liniers, assembled a large force of Creoles and retook Buenos Aires, making prisoners of the garrison, which numbered only about one thousand.

The news of the early success had delighted the British



ARGENTINE REPUBLIC



## ARGENTINA, A GREAT REPUBLIC

Government, and, to consolidate the supposed conquest, they sent out a strong expedition. The expedition was grossly mismanaged, however, by its incompetent commander, and he was forced to sign a convention to evacuate both Buenos Aires and Montevideo, which had also been captured.

This brilliant success on the part of the Creoles gave them contempt for the Spanish Government, which had left them to their own resources, and also a taste for British goods; thus were laid the foundations of the Revolution and the huge development of foreign trade, which have been the two main features of the last century of Argentine history.

### Argentina Wages the War of Liberation

On May 25th, 1810 (which is celebrated by the Argentines as the beginning of the Revolution), an influential party favouring independence, among whom were Moreno and Belgrano, adroitly persuaded the Viceroy to appoint a Creole Junta and give it supreme power in the name of Ferdinand. This done, they quickly threw off the mask and sent out armies all over the Viceroyalty to depose Spanish and loyalist officials, and to spread revolutionary principles.

At first they had considerable success, but Belgrano failed in several campaigns against the Spanish, and in 1813 he was superseded by the great San Martín, whose successful war of liberation against Spain belongs to South American history.

The result of his work was that various Republics were formed, and that Argentina (from which Uruguay separated itself at about this time) assumed much the same boundaries as it has now. In 1816 its formal separation from Spain was proclaimed. As yet conditions were very unsatisfactory, for short-lived juntas, soon succeeded by dictators, were ruling in Buenos Aires, while the provinces were practically independent. These were the Federalists, as opposed to the Unitarians, who desired a centralised Republic, and when the able and honest Rivadavia came to the front in 1821, and ruled well and wisely for some years, it seemed as if the Unitarian system might triumph.

### Twenty Dreary Years of Tyranny

But lack of communications was a handicap to centralisation, and the history of the next forty years was a bitter disappointment to those who had cherished bright hopes of the good that would arise from independence.

The Unitarians were crushed, their leaders exiled, and out of the confusion emerged the remarkable tyrant and dictator, Juan Manuel Rosas. A rich landowner of the Pampas and the idol of thousands of half-savage Gauchos, he

was nominally a Federalist, but his actual policy was to crush his Federalist allies, which he did by massacre and assassination, and thus to make his province of Buenos Aires supreme over the whole of Argentina.

Like Francia in Paraguay and other South American tyrants, his aim seems to have been to make his country isolated and self-sufficient, and he had an equal hatred of foreigners and those who held liberal principles. He even closed the River Paraná to foreign navigation, but this measure led to the blockade of Buenos Aires by the British and French fleets, and he was compelled to re-open the river.

For some twenty dreary years the tyranny of Rosas lasted, until he was defeated by Urquiza, a former ally, at the Battle of Casseros in 1852. In the next year, to emphasise the overthrow of tyranny, a Federal Constitution was established.

Urquiza became the first President for a period of six years, but the Constitutional troubles were not at an end, for the province of Buenos Aires was jealous of the other provinces, and at first remained outside the Federation. This party of the capital was called the *Porteños*—the men of the Port—and they took the place of the Unitarians. Eventually, in 1862, the *Porteño*, Bartolomé Mitre, became President, and the question was temporarily settled by making Buenos Aires the seat of the Federal Government as well as the provincial capital.

### Wars, Dissensions, and Frenzied Finance

The prospects appeared fair for General Mitre, but in 1865 Argentina became involved in a destructive five years' war with Brazil and Uruguay against the tyrant López of Paraguay.

Neither wars nor dissensions, however, could impede the growing prosperity; the city of Buenos Aires, in 1868, had a population of 180,000, and Argentina began to supply the world with pastoral products, although civil discord and "frenzied finance" were for a long time obstacles to progress.

The Federalists again triumphed at the Presidential election of 1874, and there was much discontent on the part of the *Porteños*, who were led by General Mitre. Belonging to the Federalist party, General Roca was made Minister of War, and in 1878 he completed the conquest of Patagonia and annexed it.

Roca was nominated for the Presidency in 1880, and met with sharp opposition from Mitre, for Buenos Aires now had a population of 650,000, and the *Porteños* thought that they were entitled to supremacy in the Republic. But though numerous, they were not well armed, and after fierce fighting Roca defeated them.



## ARGENTINA A GREAT REPUBLIC

The provincial Government was removed to La Plata, but, in the event, the capital became so powerful that the ideal of the Porteños—a strong central Government dominated by Buenos Aires—was realised. Roca used his victory with moderation, and the troublesome Constitutional question was finally laid to rest.

Celman followed him as President. Under Celman there was an orgy of corruption and speculation, and the Civic Union was formed for his overthrow, which was duly accomplished in July, 1890.

The evil he had done lived after him; he had left an empty treasury, and the credit of the Republic was seriously undermined. A huge emission of paper money by Pellegrini, the new President, only aggravated the evil, and in Buenos Aires itself the long-expected crash came in March, 1891. The Banco Nacional collapsed, and its example was followed by every other banking institution with the solitary exception of the London and River Plate Bank.

The "transient and embarrassed" Presidents who flitted across the scene failed to cope with the situation, and, to add to the troubles, boundary disputes, the curse of South American countries, arose with Brazil and Chile.

Fortunately, in 1898, the strong man, General Roca, was again called to the Presidency, and he threw himself patriotically into the task of maintaining peace and restoring prosperity. Chile insisted upon arbitration on the boundary

question, and Roca wisely consented, but the Patagonian question, which was referred to Great Britain, brought the two nations to the verge of war. The good offices of Great Britain, an excellent boundary commission, and the conciliatory attitude of Roca, averted the calamity; in 1902 a satisfactory decision was given and the two Republics set up a colossal statue of Christ in the Andes as a guarantee of perpetual peace.

This happy result established international confidence, the credit of Argentina greatly improved, and for many years the chief interest of Argentine history is to be found in the stupendous development of her industries.

In 1916 Dr. Irigoyen, whose Radical views were more pronounced than those of any predecessor in the chair, became President as the result of a perfectly free election. Meanwhile, the Great War had broken out, and the President gave all his energies to keeping the country neutral. This was not an easy task, for Argentina had strong sympathy with the Entente, and Count Luxburg's recommendation to sink Argentine ships without leaving a trace roused the people to fury, but Germany apologised, and the masterful President preserved neutrality to the end.

Since the war Argentina has experienced the same troubles which have come upon many other nations, but with improved methods in politics and finance, the greatness of her natural resources will soon ensure her a renewed term of prosperity.

## ARGENTINA : FACTS AND FIGURES

### The Country

The Argentine Republic (Republica Argentina) is a South American country bounded on west by Chile, north by Bolivia and Paraguay, and north-east by Brazil and Uruguay, with seaboard on east from La Plata to Cape Horn. Area 1,153,119 square miles, and population 8,533,332, equal to nearly seven persons to the square mile. Consists of federal district of Buenos Aires, fourteen provinces, and ten territories, including Tierra del Fuego.

### Government and Constitution

The President is elected for six years through an electoral college appointed by the fourteen provinces. He is chairman of Senate, commander in chief, makes all civil, military, and naval appointments, and, with ministers, holds executive power. Constitution, almost identical with United States, provides National Congress, consisting of Senate of thirty members specially elected, and House of Deputies of one hundred and fifty-eight members, freely elected. Ministry, appointed by President, consists of eight secretaries of State. Provinces have their own legislatures and elect their own governors.

### Army and Navy

Army is a national militia, service being compulsory with one year's continuous training. Peace establishment about 20,000, with trained

reserves amounting to about 300,000. Effective navy consists of two dreadnoughts and a few destroyers; also two old battleships and five old cruisers, total establishment about 10,000.

### Commerce and Industries

About 400 million acres, or more than half total area, is available for agriculture or cattle raising. About sixty million acres are under cultivation, producing about six million tons of wheat, about one million tons oats, about five million tons maize, and over one million tons flax per annum. Cattle number about twenty-seven million, sheep forty-five million, and horses, nine million. Total wool produced about 190,000 tons per annum. Total imports (1920), £170,820,000; exports, £201,360,000 (£128,000,000 to Great Britain).

### Chief Towns

Buenos Aires (capital), 1,674,000; Rosario, 222,590; Córdoba, 156,000; Tucumán, 91,200; La Plata, 90,400; Santa Fé, 59,000; Mendoza, 58,800; Avellaneda, 46,000; Bahía Blanca, 44,000.

### Money

Theoretically gold standard with gold dollar, the peso, worth (pre-war) 4s. rd., divided into 100 centavos. Money in circulation is paper, paper peso being worth about 1s. 9d. on pre-war basis. Metric system is compulsory.





ONE OF ARMENIA'S SOLEMNLY QUIANT DRUM AND FLUTE DANCES FOR MEN ONLY  
 Holding hands, they form a ring, and the flute-player blows a well-marked melody, which the drummer emphasises into an inviting measure. But the dance is a slow and almost motionless affair. The men of the ring just bend their ankles and their knees, and, without advancing, indicate two or three varying steps to the right or the left. It seems some primitive rite with a lost meaning